IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace claims 3, 6, 7, 16, 17, 24, 32 and 44, and add new claims 50-54, as follows.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said HIV functional activity is HIV replication.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said agent is an amiloride analogue or functional equivalent thereof.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 wherein said amiloride analogue comprises a substitution of the amino group at the 5-position of the pyrazine ring or functional equivalent thereof.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein said agent is an amiloride analogue or functional equivalent thereof.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 16 wherein said amiloride analogue comprises a substitution of the amino group at the 5-position of the pyrazine ring or functional equivalent thereof.

24. (Amended) Use according to claim 22 wherein said agent is an amiloride analogue or functional equivalent thereof.

32. (Amended) The method according to claim 30 wherein said amiloride analogue comprises a substitution of the amino group of the 5-position of the pyrazine ring or functional equivalent thereof.

44. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for use in reducing, retarding or otherwise inhibiting Vpu ion channel functional activity said composition comprising an agent as defined in according with claim 1 and one or more pharmaceutical acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

50. (New) The method according to Claim 5 wherein said agent is an amiloride analogue or functional equivalent thereof.

51. (New) The method according to Claim 15 wherein said agent is an amiloride analogue or functional equivalent thereof.

52. (New) Use according to Claim 23 wherein said agent is an amiloride analogue or functional equivalent thereof.

53. (New) The method according to Claim 31 wherein said amiloride analogue comprises a substitution of the amino group of the 5- position of the pyrazine ring or functional equivalent thereof.

54. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for use in reducing, retarding or otherwise inhibiting Vpu ion channel functional activity said composition comprising an agent as defined in according with Claim 37 and one or more pharmaceutical acceptable carriers and/or diluents.